

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7341

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DEPT PASS TREASURY FOR BILL WEBER AND EDGAR FIEDLER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UK

SUBJECT: UK TELEVISION APPEARANCE BY US ECONOMISTS

REF: (A) LONDON 747 (B) STATE 2304 (C) TREASURY 222042

1. BBC TELEVISION IS INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY OF
APPEARANCE BY US ECONOMISTS ON MONDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY
11, TO DISCUSS PRICE AND WAGE CONTROLS BUT IS NOT YET
ABLE TO COMPLETE FIRM PLANS AND IS CLEARLY HOLDING ITS
OPTIONS OPEN IN CASE A MORE TIMELY STORY WITH REGARD
TO BRITISH SITUATION BREAKS BEFORE THEN.

2. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AN OFFICIAL U.S. VIEWPOINT,
WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT MR. FIEDLER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF THE TREASURY FOR ECONOMIC POLICY, WHO IS ALSO
ATTENDING THE DITCHLEY CONFERENCE, WOULD PARTICIPATE
IN SUCH A PANEL WITH MESSRS. GORDON, GRAYSON AND HELLER.

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT MR. FIEDLER HAS ALREADY AGREED TO
A VERY HEAVY AND, IN OUR VIEW, EXTREMELY USEFUL SERIES
OF SPEECHES ON MONDAY (MORNING PRESS BRIEFING APPEARANCE
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BEFORE MONDAY LUNCH CLUB, COMPOSED OF LEADING AMERICAN

BUSINESSMEN, FOLLOWED BY SPEECH IN AFTERNOON AT EMBASSY TO SELECT AUDIENCE OF ECONOMISTS, BUSINESSMEN AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS) AND THAT HE HAS REQUESTED (REF C) THAT MONDAY NIGHT BE HELD OPEN. NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT TO BRITAIN AT THIS TIME AND THE WIDE AUDIENCE THAT A TELEVISION PROGRAM WOULD COMMAND, WE HOPE HE WOULD CONSENT TO GIVE UP A LITTLE MORE OF HIS TIME.

4. WE DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO SUGGEST TAPING A PROGRAM ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, AT DITCHLEY. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, DITCHLEY STAGES SEVERAL

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCES EACH YEAR FOR DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS AND BRITONS IN PUBLIC LIFE. AS PART OF OUR UNDERSTANDING WITH FOUNDATION, POST DOESN'T ENCOURAGE INTERVIEWS, PRESS CONFERENCES, OR FILM SESSIONS AT DITCHLEY PARK, AND WE DO NOT SEE HOW WE CAN TRESPASS UPON THE TIME THAT DITCHLEY HAS ARRANGED BECAUSE THEY HAVE IN FACT PAID FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMISTS TO DITCHLEY. THEREFORE, AND AS BBC WOULD WISH, INTERVIEWS SHOULD BE DONE MONDAY AT BBC STUDIOS IN LONDON EITHER VIDEO TAPE IN THE AFTERNOON OR LIVE IN THE EVENING.

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